

AGENDA ITEM V A

REAUTHORIZATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED UNIT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY - SHREVEPORT

INTERNATIONAL LINCOLN CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Louisiana State University-Shreveport (LSUS) seeks continued Board of Regents' approval for the aforementioned Center, which was previously granted full, five year approval in May 2002, as follows:

Approval is granted for the proposed International Lincoln Center for American Studies at Louisiana State University-Shreveport, effective immediately and for a period of five years from this date.

The request for reauthorization of center status was received by staff in October 2008, following approval by the LSU Board of Supervisors earlier that month.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description and Need

Documentation submitted by LSUS notes the following:

Abraham Lincoln was familiar with Louisiana. As a youth he had visited the state twice. As President, his final words from the White House were directed toward Louisiana, where he had hoped to implement a model for lenient Reconstruction. Three years earlier in 1862, President Lincoln had widened the door to a college education for the growing middle class in Louisiana and other states when he signed into law the historic Land Grant College Act. This legislation transformed higher education throughout the United States, and its positive impact on Louisiana continues today.

The public Louisiana State University System, which includes LSU in Shreveport, has its genesis in the Land Grant College Act of 1862. Therefore, it seems particularly appropriate that an institution founded as an outgrowth of the Land Grant College Act would embrace its signer, Abraham Lincoln, and his democratic ideals as exemplified through the LSUS International Lincoln Center for American Studies LSUS, begun in 1983.

In less than a decade, the program had won its first national acclaim for its presidential conference series. That inaugural 1992 presidential conference—on Abraham Lincoln, of

course—was followed the next year by establishment of the First Summer Teacher Institute. The award winning conference series is the only one in the Deep South, and the teacher institute was the first in the nation for secondary teachers. The Center has garnered local, state, regional and national awards during the quarter century since its inception.

During the [time since approval], the Center has built on its core components while adding new ones. The Center continues to evolve and focus positive attention from the national and international academic community on LSU in Shreveport. The multidisciplinary activities conducted by the Center (and open to the community) are timed to integrate local and regional offerings with corresponding national and international events throughout the year.

2. Activities

LSUS reports the following as major activities of the center since its inception:

There are now ten major components of the Center's activities: (1) an annual Constitution Day Lecture and Law Fair, which appropriately reflects Abraham Lincoln's long career in the law and his historic contribution of skillfully integrating the Declaration of Independence with the U. S. Constitution; (2) the only annual Abraham Lincoln lecture series in the Deep South; (3) the only presidential conference series in the nation that uses Lincoln's leadership as its unifying theme; (4) the least-expensive "Washington Semester" in the nation; (5) fellowships awarded to local Caddo Parish educators to attend the summer teacher institute in Colonial Williamsburg; (6) an annual lecture series on Washington, D.C., held at LSU in Shreveport; (7) an annual research fellowship open to faculty at LSU in Shreveport; (8) the Center's publication record; (9) the Lincoln legacy abroad collection, and (10) summer teacher institutes for local educators.

Through these local, national and international activities, the Center has carved for itself a niche in the academic Lincoln field. The center's director, William D. Pederson, serves on the National Advisory Committee to the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has been nominated to serve on the corresponding Louisiana commission.

A detailed description of each of the above mentioned Center activities was included in the proposal, all of which the staff judged to be appropriate, successful, and impressive—especially given the relatively low Center costs. Complete materials are available in the Office of Academic Affairs.

3. Faculty, Facilities and Equipment, and Administration

The University reports:

Personnel: *The Center is run by a director, William D. Pederson, Ph.D., who holds the American Studies Endowed Chair, and is a professor of political science. He is assisted by a half-time administrative assistant, Donna Byrd, B.A. Both have served since the Center was established.*

Administrative Structure: No changes

Facilities: Upon approval of the Center the American office in 148 Bronson Hall was vacated. It re-opened as the Center in 321 Bronson Hall which houses the offices of the director and the administrative assistant, and in 323 Bronson Hall which houses the Lincoln legacy abroad collection.

Equipment: No changes.

4. Budget

The budget for the Center is as follows:

REVENUE	Year 1 AY 2008-2009	Year 2 AY 2009-2010	Year 3 AY 2010-2011	Year 4 AY 2011-2012	Year 5 AY 2012- 2013
LSUS	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$97,000
LEH	\$70,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$35,000	\$2,500
ILA	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Lincoln Forum	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
S-B Community Foundation	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
American Studies Endowment	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$217,500	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$182,500	\$150,000
COSTS	Year 1 AY 2008-2009	Year 2 AY 2009-2010	Year 3 AY 2010-2011	Year 4 AY 2011-2012	Year 5 AY 2012-2013
Personnel Director & Admin. Assistant	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$97,000
Supplies	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Operating Expenses	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Other	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
TOTAL	\$137,000	\$137,000	\$137,000	\$137,000	\$137,000

With regard to revenue, the University states:

The amounts from LSUS represent the salaries and benefits for the Director and the Administrative Assistant. The LEH provides Outreach Grants for the annual Lincoln Lecture in the amount of \$2,500. For the Summer of 2009 we have proposed a Summer Teacher Institute through the LEH; the total grant amount would be \$70,000. The International Lincoln Association and the Lincoln Forum both make annual donations to help support the Triennial Presidential Conference series. The Shreveport/Bossier Community Foundation provides annual Fellowships for Caddo teachers to attend the Summer Teacher Institute in colonial Williamsburg. The American Studies endowment represents a portion of the funds available through the Board of Regents Endowed Chair in American Studies.

And for costs:

The Center uses all the typical office supplies: paper, stationery, envelopes, printer cartridges, and so on. In addition, supplies necessary for the Washington Semester, the Lincoln Lecture, and the Triennial conference are purchased: nametags, folders, brochures, conference booklets, signs, and so on. The office has three telephone lines and a copier/fax/printer. The telephone line charges and the monthly maintenance charges come out of Operating Expenses, along with our heavy long-distance charges. We also spend a lot for postage, with all the various mailings related to the Washington Semester, Lincoln Lecture, and the Triennial conference. The Travel budgets covers the costs of conference trips made by the Director. The "Other" category includes institutional memberships to a number of organizations related to Lincoln and American Studies, as well as subscriptions to journals, newsletters, and magazines related to Lincoln and American Studies. Finally, we produce three publications whose costs come from this budget: Abraham Lincoln Abroad, The Lincolnator, and the Journal of Contemporary Thought.

It is important to note that the bulk of Center costs are for personnel. As the chair is supported by the proceeds of a Regents' Endowed Chair, State costs in this area are relatively minimal. While future revenues are estimates, the past history of successful funding efforts supports the likelihood that such amounts will be forthcoming. It would be beneficial to have any more external support, but given the obviously careful use of current funding, it is not essential. The staff is impressed both with the efficacy and efficiency of this unit.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff commends the Center for its productivity and affirms its relevance to the University. The Center's status should continue for the next five years, albeit with periodic affirmations that projected sources of funding have indeed come to fruition. As such, a series of progress reports is appropriate in this regard.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant continued full approval for the International Lincoln Center for American Studies at Louisiana State University-Shreveport through December 1, 2013. Prior to that date, the University shall submit a request for reauthorization of center status. Should such a request not be received by the aforementioned date, the Board of Regents shall re-examine the need for this unit.

By December 1, 2010, the University shall submit a progress report to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs detailing funding secured to-date to afford Center operations through the remaining period of its term of approval.